

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 and 19-29 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 19 are amended, formal drawings are attached, claims 17 and 18 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein and claims 25-29 are added. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 17-19 can be found in Fig. 3, and the corresponding description in the specification, at least at page 19, line 13- page 20, line 6, and page 21, lines 7-17. Support for new claims 25-29 can be found at least in original claim 12. No new matter is added.

Claims 1-12 and 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101. The rejection of canceled claims 17 and 18 is moot. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 19 are amended responsive to the rejection. Claims 2-12 and 20 are rejected only for their respective dependence on claims 1 and 19. Therefore, claims 1-12, 19 and 20 satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §101. Applicants thus respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

The drawings are objected to for being informal. Formal drawings are attached, thus rendering the objection moot. Applicants thus respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

Claims 1-4, 6-11, 13-18, 23 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Suzuki (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0225933); and claims 5, 12 and 19-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Suzuki. The rejection of canceled claims 17 and 18 is moot and the rejections of claims 1-4, 6-11, 13-16, 23 and 24 are respectfully traversed.

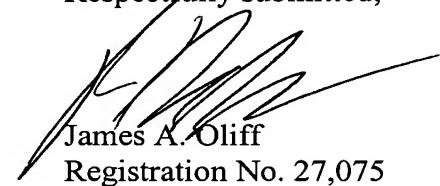
Suzuki is disqualified as prior art by the attached accurate English-language translation of JP 2003-082880. The instant application claims priority from JP 2003-082880, filed March 25, 2003. Suzuki has an effective U.S. filing date of May 30, 2003. The attached accurate English-language translation of JP 2003-082880, which supports the pending claims, perfects priority. Therefore, the instant application predates Suzuki and Suzuki is disqualified

as prior art. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and §103(a) rejections over Suzuki are moot. Applicants thus respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:PTM/add

Date: August 4, 2008

Attachments:

Petition for Extension of Time
Amendment Transmittal
Replacement Sheets for Figs. 1(a)-21
Accurate English Translation of JP 2003-082880

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